Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-56. (Cancelled).

57. (New) A method for treating heart failure by improving SERCA2a-mediated contractility of cardiac myocytes, the method comprising delivering a pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising an exogenous dominant negative phospholamban (PLB) protein to the heart by introducing the composition directly into cardiac circulation, wherein the PLB protein is functionally attached to a transport peptide effective in facilitating translocation of a sufficient quantity of the protein into the myocytes to improve their contractility.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the mutations of PLB constitute single or double point sense mutations to domains I or II of the PLB protein.

59. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein the transport peptide is a *Drosophila antennapedia* peptide.

60. (New) The method according to claim 59, wherein the *Drosophila antennapedia* peptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID. No. 7.

61. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a cargo peptide and a linker attaching the cargo peptide to the transport peptide.

62. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the cargo peptide consists of the first 16 residues of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ.ID.Nos. 8, 17, 18 or 19.

63. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the mutation consists of a sense mutation selected from the group consisting of V49A, SE16, SN16, K3E and K3E/R14E, made to the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 1.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the V49A mutant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.No. 2.

65. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the E2A mutant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.No. 3.

66. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the R14E mutant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.No. 4.

67. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the S16N mutant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.No. 5.

68. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the K3E/R14E mutant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.No. 6.

69. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein the direct introduction into cardiac circulation is achieved by cardiac catheterization.